

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Division of Marketing

Agricultural Development & Diversification Program (ADD)

1999 Grant Project Final Report

Contract Number: 14011

Grant Project Title: Reducing Fugitive Dust

Project Beginning Date: July 1, 1999 Project End Date: September 10, 2000

Amount of Funding Awarded: \$47,400.00

Name of Principal Contact Person: Lou Schweigert

Address: 613 North Randolph Street

City, State and Zip Code: Cuba City, WI 53807

Telephone: 608-744-7333 Fax Number: 608-744-3623

E-Mail or WEB Address: northgro@mhtc.net

Submitted by: Lou Schweigert Date: September 14, 2000

Department Contact: DATCP - Marketing - ADD Grants
PO Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911
Tel: (608)224-5137
Fax: (608)224-5111

1) Original intent of the grant project:

Our facility was faced with a dust problem that was threatening our existence. This same dust problem was occurring at many varying agricultural industries in Wisconsin. Our objective was to design, fabricate, and install innovative equipment to efficiently handle product while minimizing dust emissions.

2) Work conducted:

The grant funds were extremely important to this project. In fact, while financially only a small part of the project, we would not have undertaken this endeavor without the grant funds as a base.

I would rate this project 100% successful. Our objectives were met or exceeded and other unanticipated benefits were achieved.

The biggest challenge was envisioning equipment and procedures never used before. We had to be very innovative and flexible right through installation and operation

3) Public Outreach

We were the topic for many newspaper articles and tours. Locally, the Tri-County Press and University of Wisconsin, Platteville were involved. Regionally, the Wisconsin State Journal and the Dubuque Telegraph Herald covered this project and we had many seed industry and individual tours.

4) Results

This project was very successful in meeting our objectives. Our dust emissions were dramatically reduced and, as a side benefit, we also reduced our noise levels.

The Patz Equipment Co, (a Wisconsin based company) and their local dealer were very helpful with equipment design. In fact, they intend to offer a new line of equipment based on their experiences with us.

This was my first attempt to use grant money for a project. I was very pleased with the professional and common sense approach demonstrated by the personnel at the DATCP-Marketing-ADD.

The successful outcome realized by this project will allow my business to continue operations and be a responsible community business.

By allowing all types of business to flourish in the agricultural supply and service industry, we promote a competitive level from which the farmer can choose to do business. More and better goods and services with lower costs should be realized.

5) Certainly, we welcome tours and individual consultation on this project. I believe many aspects of this project can be used in many agricultural applications.